Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 HA-05 TRSE-00 /058 W

R 101407Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8836 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, US, UR, OTRA, CSCE

SOBJECT: SOVIETS REFUSE EMBOFFS TRAVEL TO NUKKS AND

TAKHIATASH

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2235, (B) MOSCOW 3125, (C) MOSCOW 3167

- 1. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER VACHNADZE INFORMED TRAVEL OFFICER MORNING OF MARCH 10 THAT REQUEST FOR MARCH 16-17 VISITS TO NUKUS AND TAKHIATASH (SOUTH OF ARAL SEA) BY EMBOFFS O'HARE AND SPEER WERE REFUSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE." NOTIFICATION CAME LESS THAN ONE WORKING DAY BEFORE MARCH 12 TRIP TO CENTRAL ASIA WAS TO BEGIN. O'HARE AND SPEER HAVE FILED AMENDED TRAVEL NOTE FOR THE REMAINING POINTS ON THEIR TRIP: SAMARKAND, URGENCH, KHIVA AND TASHKENT.
- 2. COMMENT: THIS LATEST REFUSAL FURTHER INVALIDATES MFA CLAIM THAT NOTE OF JANUARY 1978 "LIBERALIZES" TRAVEL REGULATION FOR FOREIGNERS. THUS FAR EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO ANY NEWLY-OPENED AREAS OUTSIDE MOSCOW OBLAST'. PRESS CORPS HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY LUCKIER, SINCE NYT AND REUTERS CORRESPONDENTS SHIPLER AND CATLIN WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY ALLOWED TO VISIT KOKHTLA-YARVE, A NEWLY-OPENED TOWN IN ESTONIA.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IMMEDIATE RETALIATION. TOON

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Message Attributes

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